Subject: Chat with Kermelos Alebachew
From: Kermelos Alebachew <felagota@gmail.com>
To: barriticus@gmail.com

Kermelos: hi barrett
Kermelos: quick question: anonymous does not function as a centralized, top down org but rather as individuals across the globe who utilize the group for strategic assistance to fulfill their own agendas....?
me: sort of
me: there's an ebb and flow
me: basically, there are people who, by virtue of their activeness or their reputation, are more influential than others
me: but there are no titles, no roles, no leadership other than that which comes about naturally
me: basically, Anon is also at a point of transition
me: lot of debates as to direction, etc
me: especially since we haven't had time to process the events of last month
Kermelos: just read about the ultimatum to westboro church
me: meh
me: I'm fighting that
me: one of those things that shouldn't be done
Kermelos: why?
me: not a good use of our time
Kermelos: what would constitute and good use of Anon's time?
me: we need to be giving attention to the revolutions, not WBC
Kermelos: *a good
me: and pursuing the leads on HBGaary
me: ensuring that all involved are exposed
me: some of us are working on that now
me: http://www.typewith.me/50Ox99ktN6
Kermelos: in your opinion- is there a difference between what Anon is doing and plain ol' picketing, boycotting, media campaign etc or is there none at all?
Kermelos: because legally, Anon is illegal.
me: everything is different from everything
me: and Anon participants certainly do illegal things sometimes
me: as do everyone else
me: our crimes are ethical
me: to the extent that anyone's actions can be ethical while also effective
me: look at HBGary, for instance
me: they started it, and then lied to us, and to the press, etc
me: planned what amounted to crimes

me: and worked with Feds
me: rule of law is dead in U.S.
me: and never existed in most places, really
me: of course, there does exist law
me: and oftentimes it is enforced
me: but there comes a point at which you can still have these institutions but the Constitution is ignored
me: and then we just have institutions, committing crimes to a degree that it becomes unwise for the innocent to continue applying band-aids
me: especially since I haven't seen any band-aids being applied in this country lately
me: In conclusion, yes, we break the law
me: but
me: Campbell's Project PM team doesn't
me: and frankly, neither does mine
me: none of us do DDOS attacks
Kermelos: i see
me: basically, Campbell and a few others don't want to work too closely with Anon
me: and my faction is filled with them
me: but also with people like Mano Singham
me: who now see Anon as part of the solution and ethical relative to its enemies
Kermelos: 'preciate the answers
me: happy to give them
Kermelos: do u know about the attack on Gawker?
Kermelos: what was the reason for that?
me: I've heard of it but don't know anything about it. They don't seem to mind as they come into Anon's IRC channels for interviews and I spoke to two of their editors the other day
me: we give them scoops and whatnot
me: I think Gawker did something stupid so a couple of Anons caused them some trouble but of course Anon doesn't act against speech
me: except for gov't media
Kermelos: do you guys know of the protests going on in Djibouti?
me: of course
me: see my last skeptical inquirer column
me: came out a few days ago, written two weeks back
me: of course
me: that was all them
Kermelos: can u gimme the link?
me: if there were any direct efforts by Anon I've not heard of them
Kermelos: there are no Anon efforts
me: we're doing Eritrea, as I may have told you
Kermelos: it'd be pointless
me: pointless where?

me: in Djibouti?
me: to some extent
me: but
Kermelos: yes and many other parts of so called 3rd world
me: well, of course we're best able to operate where internet is part of the culture
me: but that will change sooon
me: to some extent, at least
Kermelos: how so?
me: well, building inroads such that our sphere of action is more on-the-ground
me: for instance
me: PM's Africa development project and First Praxis
me: plus bikes for the world
me: soon enough, I'll be able to distribute pamphlets, etc
Kermelos: wth is bikes for the world?
me: most of these will be technical on basic engineering and health, though
me: it's a charity that takes unused bikes to Africa
Kermelos: oh.
me: and related things
me: basically anything having to do with improving access to bicycle transportation
me: and other orgs
me: so, to the extent that we have information "supply lines," at the very least we can impact health and development
me: in an efficient way that takes full advantage of what were learning about communication
Kermelos: to be honest i don't see the difference Anon would make in Eritrea also
me: I know
Kermelos: u agree or u know?
me: I know that you don't see. I haven't told you the plan yet and these sorts of things are unprecedented so there's no reason for you to expect anything from us
me: but I think if you'd seen what happened with North Africa
me: and one thing is
me: I know how it looks
Kermelos: i followed the north africa situation very closly
me: It seems ludicrous that Anon might have had a strong hand in that
me: it sounds like a bunch of westerners being self-indulgent and taking credit for things
me: I'd look into my Daily Kos diaries from around then
me: and compare them to coverage and action elsewhere on the respective dates
Kermelos: this is partly the reason for my doubt- "it sounds like a bunch of westerners being self-indulgent and taking credit for things"
me: I know
me: look at the wikipedia entry for Anonymous and see the links regarding OpTunisia
me: and see my Daily Kos diaries
me: you'll get a better picture

Kermelos: over the years i have tired to become a part of some american groups who try to further "democracy" and so forth in Africa and almost always they have a severe misunderstanding of african politics
me: I can imagine
me: but these people
Kermelos: Sudan is a major case and point
me: are not your traditional activists
me: they are not in it for the ritual
me: of "helping"
me: they're addicted to success
me: totally different sort of people from the kind one runs across in U.S. activist community
Kermelos: they are addicted to the attention
me: you know that?
me: you realize that some of our people turn down interviews with CNN?
Kermelos: i was referring to what you call "traditional activists"
me: and that they debate this same issue and try to contend with it?
me: oh
me: sorry
me: yes, many of them
me: not all, of course
me: but either way, their work is ineffective
me: they're not adapting to the environment
Kermelos: exactly. there is not much glory in being involved in Africa....news outlets dont give a dick
Kermelos: the only time you see news blurps is when there is some sort of bob geldoff-esque savior involved
me: Kermelos, it's now my view that we're reaching a critical mass in terms of consciousness of the interconnected flaws of media and government
me: and that these revolutions will be accompanied by significant movements in the U.S.
me: not traditional movements
Kermelos: i am starting to believe so also
me: but something akin to the change of consciousness in the '60s
me: some of the business reporters
me: They love us
me: like, people from Bloomberg
me: because
me: we don't lie to them
me: and they see that our concerns are theirs
me: anyone who pays attention knows these things
me: the trick is to get them to realize that now things are easier to change if only clever and ethical people will stop and think about how we can now organize and implement
me: Anonymous just happens to have gotten caught up in that realization in terms of its

working culture/shared attention
me: that realization is what powers the whole movement
me: Anonymous could fall by the wayside in a yeart
me: wouldn't be shocking
me: could be surpassed by better forms
me: likely comprised in part of Anon vets
me: or maybe not
me: at any rate, a lot of things are going to start happening very quickly now
Kermelos: its exciting to witness for sure
me: did you read my al-jazeera op-ed?
me: signed Anonymous?
me: Anonymous and the global correction
me: that might put it for you a bit more solidly
Kermelos: im just jaded and bitter about western activists but ill try not to let that overshadow my perception of this information revolution
me: good, as we are quite unlike them even though a few of them have found a home with thus, but these tend to be people with skills and work ethic
me: adaptable people
Kermelos: time will tell.
Kermelos: as a refugee, i have that desire to utilize the luxuries i have- i.e technology, knowledge etc
me: we tend to prefer to work without any resources other than those
me: for various reasons
me: for instance, we haven't raised any money though wwe could have quite easily
me: partly because it's best not to be dependent on it in an age at which information can be placed anywhere on the globe from anywhere else and in which one may influence anyone just as he does his neighbors
me: there's too much area of potential for us to attach ourselves to orthodox methods of raising and spending large amounts of money
Kermelos: exactly. therein the beauty of it all
me: yep
me: it really is a wondrous age and we're lucky to see it
Kermelos: i was saying the same exact thing the other day
me: okay, got morning meeting, adios
Kermelos: bye